

THE BLACK SASHCIRCULAR NO. 4/1977.503 Lestar House,  
58 Marshall Street,  
2001 Johannesburg.  
6th April, 1977.CIRCULAR TO REGIONS.

Dear all of you,

It was good seeing you at Conference and I hope you all found it as stimulating as we did. Esther is working on the draft minutes now and you should receive them within the next two weeks for comment and correction.

DEATHS IN DETENTION. Pat Tucker has compiled the following list from newspaper files. We will do our best to keep it up to date but if you know of others please let us know at once. You will remember that it was decided to read the list at all public and general meetings of the Black Sash to remind ourselves and others.

The following people have died in detention since March 18th 1976. Most were held under security laws. One was allegedly held by the CID on a charge of car theft but it is widely believed that he was detained for political reasons.

JOSEPH MDLULI, 50, was detained under the Criminal Procedure Act on March 18 by security Police. He was reported by the police to have been found dead in his cell the following night.

MAPETLA MOHAPI, 25, a former Saso and BPC official was detained on July 15 in terms of the Terrorism Act and held at the Kei Roed Jail near East London. On August 5 he was reported to have hanged himself in his cell.

LUKE MAZWENBE, 32, a member of the Western Province Workers' Advice Bureau was detained on the morning of September 2. He was reported to have been found dead in his cell at Caledon Square Police Station, Cape Town two hours after his detention. He allegedly hanged himself.

DUMISANI MBATHA, age variously given as 16 and 22, was arrested in Johannesburg during the Soweto Students' demonstration on September 16. He died in the Far East Rand Hospital on September 25 after complaining to authorities at Modderbee Prison that he was feeling ill.

JACOB MASHABANE, 22, a University of Zululand Student was reported to have hanged himself while in detention in the Johannesburg Fort. He had disappeared from home on October 1 and died on October 5. Prison authorities claim he was an awaiting trial prisoner charged with motor car theft.

?? ? WILLIAM NAMODI TSHWANE, a student of Jabavu, Soweto, was reported to have been arrested with other students on July 25 and held at Modderbee Prison. According to newspaper reports his father was informed of his son's death in prison on October 14. According to Minister Kruger he was caught in Soweto on July 26 while handling a stolen vehicle and when he fled was shot dead by the police.

EDWARD MZOLO, 40, was detained at the Fort on October 1. He was alleged to have died in detention on October 9.

ERNEST "CHIEF" MAMASILA, 35, was taken in custody on November 16. On November 18 his family was told he had hanged himself in jail.

WELLINGTON TSHAZIBANE, 30, was arrested on December 9. On December 11 police informed his family that he had hanged himself.

MR. T. MOSALA, was detained in August 1976 in the Transkei and was found dead in the Butterworth Prison on November 30.

GEORGE BOTHA, 32, was detained in the police cells at Despatch, Port Elizabeth on December 10 in terms of Section 22 of Act 62 of 1966 (General Laws Amendment Act). On December 15, while being taken to the offices of the Security Branch he fell six storeys down a stairwell.

NANAOTH NTSUNTSHA, 43, was detained in the police cells at Leslie on December 14 in terms of Section Six of the Terrorism Act. On January 9, he was found hanging by his vest in his cell.

LAWRENCE NDZANGA, 52/---



LAWRENCE NDZANGA, 52, was detained on November 18 in terms of Section Six. He was detained as an awaiting trial prisoner at the Fort from December 12 and died on January 8 of a heart attack.

ELMON MALELE, 52, was detained on January 10 in terms of Section Six. He died on January 20, reportedly of a stroke.

MATTHEW M. MABELANE, 22, detained on January 21 under Section Six and transferred to the cells at John Vorster Square on January 27. On February 15, he fell to his death from the 10th floor of John Vorster Square.

SAMUEL JULI MALINGA, 45, of Soweto, died of a pulmonary embolism at Blendale Hospital.

*AARON KHOZA, 35, detained (Transvaal) 19/12/1976, died 26/27 March 1977 of Khagiso Township, Transvaal. Detained in Naityburg police cell.*

PEOPLES' COLLEGE. Someone circulated a list at Conference asking for orders for People's College. This is a very excellent publication and very useful but HELENE BUDLINDER has phoned me to say that it will be much easier if each region does its own orders. It is slightly cheaper to order 10 copies - 9 cents each instead of 10 cents. In the Transvaal we have decided that individuals must do their own orders so that we do not get involved with having to distribute every week. The following people put their names on the list:

CAPE WESTERN : Laurine Platzky ; Glen Moll; Margaret Howes ; Mary Burton; Noel Robb ;

NATAL MIDLANDS : Pessa Weinberg. NATAL COASTAL : Beth Franklin; Sólveig Piper Margaret Ambler ;

BORDER : Jinny Ronaldson ; Val Sullivan ALBANY : Sarah Christie : Gusta Macdonald

Please do your own orders. Cheques should be made payable to "The World" ADDRESS : The Subscription Manager, Allied Publishing Ltd., P. O. Box 10798, Johannesburg, 2000. The relevant paper is Weekend World and twelve months subscription is R6.24.

Peoples' College is especially useful to any of you who are involved in learning groups.

MEMORANDUM ON THE PASS LAWS : We have decided to reprint this as soon as possible which means as soon as I can find the time to bring it up to date. In view of Peoples' College it will not be necessary to rewrite it as a teaching book for the black community and it will continue to fulfill its original function as a general handbook for interested people and organisations.

INTERMEDIATE GROUPS : Sheldon Leader spoke at an Annual General Meeting to-day. Delegates to conference expressed their interest in the development of his ideas and Joyce will shortly be writing you a circular to summarise what emerged from his talk and from the discussion.

N.B. BANTU WELFARE TRUST : I shall be submitting an application for a grant for the Advice Offices very soon. Will those of you who have not sent Income and Expenditure accounts for the Advice Office only please do so by return of post.

THIS MEANS EVERYONE EXCEPT CAPE WESTERN I THINK.

CILLIE COMMISSION : I have spent the last three days listening to the evidence submitted by the Department of Bantu Administration and Development. We were told by Dr. Yutar that our memorandum had been sent to them so we felt it important to hear what they had to say in case it became necessary for us to seek an opportunity to give further evidence. However there was only one glancing blow viz :

"The allegation that influx control contributed towards the riots was founded on ignorance. Mr. S. S. Potgieter told the Cillie Commission to-day" He also said that the authorities were under constant pressure to grant blanket permission to black women, enabling them to join their husbands in white areas. This would be contrary to policy because it would depopulate the homelands.

I must confess to not having thought of the marital rights of husbands in that light before.

More pressure to your elbows.

Love

SHEENA